AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1.   Please replace paragraph [0052] of United States Patent Application Publication No. 20050055201 with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] Further, in one embodiment, if the receiver is operating on a traditional fixed-frame mode, the extra data in the buffer will help smooth eventual fluctuations in the transmission delay (i.e., delay jitter). For example, one embodiment of the speech onset detector with burst transmission is used in combination with a method for jitter control as described in a copending United States utility patent application entitled "A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REAL-TIME JITTER CONTROL AND PACKET-LOSS CONCEALMENT IN AN AUDIO SIGNAL," ~~filed TBD, and assigned Ser. No. TBD~~ now Application Serial No. 10/663,390 filed 15 September 2003, the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated herein by this reference.

2.   Please replace paragraph [0056] of United States Patent Application Publication No. 20050055201 with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] Further, in one embodiment described with respect to the receiver side of a communications system, if the receiver is operating in a variable playout schedule, then it dynamically adjusts the delay by compressing or stretching the data in the receiver buffer, as necessary. In particular, this embodiment is described in a copending United States utility patent application entitled "A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY STRETCHING AND COMPRESSION OF A DIGITAL AUDIO SIGNAL," now Application Serial No. 10/660,325 filed Sep. 10, 2003, ~~and assigned Serial No.   TBD,~~ the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated herein by this reference.

3.   Please replace paragraph [0088] of United States Patent Application Publication
No. 20050055201 with the following amended paragraph:

[0088] where N is the frame size and A is the starting point of the voice frame.
Then, the energy of the last known silence frame ES is computed in ~~520~~ 420 using
a similar expression (and it is assumed to be smaller than EV). A threshold T is
established in ~~530~~ 430 with a value between EV and ES, for example by setting

T=(4ES + EV)/5   Equation 2

4.   Please replace paragraph [0089] of United States Patent Application Publication
No. 20050055201 with the following amended paragraph:

[0089] Then, a number (or all) samples c_i in the buffer are selected 440 to be tested
as possible starting points (onset points) of the speech. For each candidate point,
the energy level of a number of samples equivalent to a frame is computed, starting
at the candidate point. In particular, for each candidate point c_i, an energy $E(c_i)$ is
computed 450 as by Equation 3:

$$E(c_i) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left(x[c_i + n] \right)^2$$ Equation 3

5.   Please replace paragraph [0091] of United States Patent Application Publication
No. 20050055201 with the following amended paragraph:

[0091] Note that the simple example illustrated by FIG. 4 is provided for purposes of
explanation only. Clearly, as should be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the
processes described with respect to FIG. 4 are based only on a frame energy
measure, and does not use zero-crossing, spectral information, or any other
characteristics known to be useful in determining voice presence in a particular
frame. Consequently, this information, zero-crossing, spectral information, etc., is

used in alternate embodiments for creating a more robust speech onset detection system. Further, other well known methods for determining speech onset points from a particular sample of frames may ~~are~~ <u>be</u> used in additional embodiments. For example, such methods include looking for the inflection point in the spectral characteristics of the signal, as well as recursive, hierarchical search methods.